

usque in marginem peristomatis producta; perist. pallido, margine subincrassato, undique expanso.

Long. $6\frac{1}{4}$ lin., diam. (anfract. penult.) $1\frac{1}{4}$ lin.

Hab. Mososeki.

A very pretty slender species, with several transverse impressed lines on the whorls.

LV.—*Observations on some proposed new Species of Oliva.*

By F. P. MARRAT.

IN the May Number of the 'Annals,' p. 344, Mr. Ponton, of Clifton, has taken exception to the whole of my proposed new species of the genus *Oliva*. It is, I think, a grave offence to occupy the pages of the 'Annals' with conclusions hastily adopted; and I therefore beg permission to clear myself of the implied charge of having done so.

The collection from which the materials of my paper were taken has been the work of several years: it contains of each of the more variable species from forty to one hundred or more specimens, and includes, with the exception of a very few (perhaps five or six), every species and every named variety that I have been able to find figured or described in the works of Lamarck, Sowerby, Chenu, Gray, and Reeve. In such a series, numbering some thousands of specimens, it might reasonably be expected that undescribed forms would occur as much deserving to be named as many of the forms identified by the above-named authorities. My supposed new forms have been selected with much care and reserve; and all pretensions to be able to make positive assertions on the extent or limit of particular species I freely resign to others.

Mr. Ponton states that colour altogether fails as a specific character in this genus. It is not surprising that an inspection of such species as *O. ispidula*, Linn., *O. irisans*, Lam., *O. maura*, Lam., and *O. ventricosa*, Soland., should produce an impression of this kind; but nowhere amongst the Gastropoda are the indications afforded by colour of more value than in the genus *Oliva*. Even slight differences of shade may often afford a clue leading to the recognition of affinities afterwards abundantly substantiated by more permanent characters.

I find in Reeve's monograph, after the description of *O. volvarioides*, the following remark:—"The uniform chestnut colouring appears to be peculiar to the species in this instance." At the same time Mr. Reeve forgets to tell us that Duclos has figured a nearly white variety on the same plate; and also that there is a variety of *O. lepida*, Duclos, of a uniform chestnut-

colour. Again, in his description of *O. pulchella*, Reeve (not Duclos, as quoted) tells us that it differs from *O. lanceolata*, Reeve, in having the spots invariably removed from the sutures.

Mr. Ponton says that the purple stain at the base of the columella is a marked character of *O. reticularis*, Lam. I will enumerate the species or varieties with and without this stain.

1. Having no stain:—*O. reticularis*, Lam. (Reeve, pl. 10. fig. 16*a*), stated in Reeve's description to be the type. There are forty specimens of this variety before me, and I have examined at least two hundred more without finding in any one of them the slightest trace of the stain mentioned by Reeve and quoted by Mr. Ponton; neither does it occur in any specimens of the smaller West-Indian variety examined by me. *O. timorea*, Duclos, *O. obesina*, Lam., *O. Melchersi*, Mke. (*O. araneosa*, Lam.) (four pale varieties), *O. pindarina*, Duclos (six pale varieties), *O. ustulata*, Lam., *O. hepatica*, Lam., *O. julieta*, Duclos, *O. polypasta*, Duclos, *O. peruviana*, Lam. (normal form), and *O. fusiformis*, Lam.

2. More or less stained:—*O. incrassata*, Soland. (*O. angulata*, Lam.), five out of fourteen specimens; *O. subangulata*, Philippi, *O. Melchersi*, Mke. (*O. araneosa*, Lam.), all the dark varieties; *O. pindarina*, Duclos, all the dark varieties; Reeve's shell, figured at pl. 10. fig. 16*h*, of which there are two very much finer specimens than the one figured lying on my table (they were sent by a resident in Jamaica, and gathered by himself on the shore of that island; but I must remark that the resemblance, spoken of by Reeve, to the variety *O. araneosa*, Lam., does not appear to me so striking). The shell figured at pl. 11. fig. 16*h* has the columellar lip of a uniform dark-brown colour. *O. splendidula*, Sow.; *O. Cumingii*, Reeve. I have not observed an approach to the colour of this shell in any specimen in the *reticularis* group; whereas shells of a similar colour and character with the stain at the base are of frequent occurrence among the abnormal forms of *O. peruviana*, Lam. (of which the *O. ligneola*, Reeve is one), the *O. intertincta*, Carpenter, *O. inflata*, Lam., *O. nebulosa*, Lam., and *O. undatella*, Lam. In fact *O. reticularis*, as at present constituted, is (like the term *Fucus* in geology, anything in the form of a plant) anything in the form of an Olive. Having the whole of the species and varieties described both by Reeve and Duclos, and at least twelve others in that group of which I have seen either a figure or description, neither my *O. violacea* nor *jamaicensis* will agree with any of them.

Now, with regard to *O. truncata*, Marrat; since describing this species, several other specimens have been examined by

me, all agreeing in form and marking with my shells; so that I am more convinced that this is a good form.

O. polita, Marrat, is made a variety of *O. jaspidea* of somebody not quoted. My shell has no affinity with the *O. jaspidea*, Gmelin, but somewhat resembles the *O. jaspidea*, Duclos, which is the same as *O. Duclosii*, Reeve.

O. piperata, Marrat. Here Mr. Ponton remarks that *O. conoidalis*, Lam., is simply a variety of *O. jaspidea*, not mentioning whether it be the *O. jaspidea*, Duclos, or *O. jaspidea*, Gmelin. If the former, there is no relation; if the latter, the names are synonymous.

O. faba, Marrat, is placed as a variety of *O. carneola*, Lam. (*O. aurora*, Soland.). According to a recent monograph by Dr. Gray, my shell belongs to the genus *Strephona*, having the spire open to the tip, and *O. carneola*, Lam., to the genus *Galeola*, embracing shells with a callous spire. I may remark that after three years' search for any open-spired shell in this group—viz. *O. calosoma*, Duclos (a beautiful species), *O. tigrina*, Meusch. (*O. tessellata*, Lam.), *O. todosina*, Duclos, *O. lepida*, Duclos, *O. volvarioides*, Duclos, *O. athenia*, Duclos (not figured by Reeve, but quoted as a variety of *O. carneola*, Lam.), and *O. picta*, Reeve—I have failed in my attempt. In a drawer on my table one hundred specimens are arranged, consisting of all the figured varieties in the series, and several others neither figured nor described.

O. blanda, Marrat. Mr. Ponton considers this to be a form of *O. ispidula* of somebody. If he mean the shell of Linn., I must inform him that the white shell of which he speaks is the *O. candida*, Lam. (*O. olerinella*, Duclos), and was separated by both these able conchologists, in consequence of the broad plaited columella.

O. oblonga, Marrat. Will Mr. Ponton kindly refer to the figures mentioned in my description?

O. cylindrica, Marrat. Again a species with an open spire and rounded spiral whorls has been referred to the figure of a shell with a callous spire, but in this case with good reason. My description certainly favours the idea; but let me refer to the group in my cabinet. I find seventy-three specimens under the head of *O. irisans*, Lam., including all the varieties figured in any work to which I have access, and many more beautiful than their more favoured paper brethren; but the eighteen shells under the head of *O. cylindrica*, Marrat, will not agree with any of them.

O. ornata, Marrat, has been imported in considerable numbers, and is an acknowledged species by every conchologist who has seen it.

O. pallida, Marrat, will not agree with any figure or description of *O. scripta*, Lam. There is a very considerable difference between the *O. scripta*, Lam., as figured by Reeve, and the *O. scripta*, Lam., as figured by Duclos; and a much greater difference exists between the shells in my cabinet and the forms figured.

O. similis, Marrat, is so decidedly distinct as to require no comment.

2 Peveril Terrace, Edge Lane, Liverpool.

May 16, 1868.

LVI.—*Diagnoses of some new Freshwater Fishes from Surinam and Brazil, in the Collection of the British Museum.*

By Dr. ALBERT GÜNTHER.

THE Trustees of the British Museum obtained, in the course of last year, several collections of South-American Fishes, of which we may mention that made by Mr. Edward Bartlett on the Huallaga and at Xeberos (Upper Amazons), others sent by Hr. Kappler from the Maroni River (Surinam), and, finally, numerous examples from Surinam, formerly in the museum of the late Dr. van Lidth de Jeude. For the present I give the diagnoses of those species which I have found to be undescribed; and more detailed descriptions with illustrations will be published in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society,' before which the paper was read on March 26.

Doras helicophilus.

Lateral shields well developed, entirely uncovered by the skin; the depth of the third is one-half of the length of the head, those on the tail only half as deep as the tail; their whole surface is covered with minute spines. Humeral process without spines, with a very slight ridge extending to the hinder third of the pectoral spine. The posterior lobes of the nuchal carapace are rounded, reaching to the base of the second soft ray of the dorsal fin. Dorsal spine serrated in front and behind, the anterior denticulations being directed upwards. Caudal peduncle shielded above and below. Uniform blackish; dorsal fin white, the middle black.

Surinam.

Oxydoras acipenserinus.

This fish is distinguished from all its congeners by the peculiar shape of the head and snout, which is elongate triangular, pointed, and much depressed in its anterior portion. L. lat. 42. Xeberos.